

Message Text

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SUBJ: CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, DEC 11

1. FALL (SENEGAL) CHALLENGED CREDENTIALS OF KHMER REP AND WAS SUPPORTED BY SALIM (TANZANIA), AND WANG (CHINA). ALL THREE SPOKE ALONG SAME LINES AS IN PLENARY DEBATE ON REPRESENTATION. US POINTED OUT LIMITED AND PRECISE ROLE OF CREDENTIALS COMITE UNDER ARTICLE 27 AND NOTED COMMENTS MADE WERE NOT RELEVANT TO TASK OF CREDENTIALS COMITE. US REP ALSO NOTED FOR RECORD OUR DISAGREEMENT WITH FACTS ALLEGED BY PREVIOUS SPEAKERS. SAITO (JAPAN) POINTED TO RESTRICTED MANDATE OF CREDENTIALS COMITE AND OPPOSED PROPOSAL TO REJECT KHMER CREDENTIALS. PROPOSAL REJECTED THREE IN FAVOR (CHINA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA), FIVE AGAINST (GREECE, JAPAN, NICARAGUA, URUGUAY, US). COMMENT: USSR ALTHOUGH MEMBER OF CREDENTIALS COMITE WAS NOTICEABLY ABSENT.

2. FALL THEN REQUESTED PORTUGUESE CREDENTIALS BE CIRCULATED. SALIM SUPPORTED THIS MOVE. WHEN IT TURNED OUT CREDENTIALS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED IN PORTUGUESE, COMITE ADJOURNED UNTIL THEY HAD BEEN TRANSLATED. WHEN COMITE RECONVENED AND CREDENTIALS CIRCULATED, SENEGAL AND TANZANIA

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POINTED TO FACT THAT PORTUGUESE CREDENTIALS LIST CONTAINED

ALTERNATE REP WHO WAS STATED AS COMING FROM PORTUGUESE PROVINCE OF LOURENCO MARQUES (SIC). THEY POINTED ALSO TO VARIOUS ADVISERS ON THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WHO WERE LISTED AS COMING FROM PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES OF ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA. SALIM STATED THAT HE WAS NOT CHALLENGING CREDENTIALS OF PORTUGAL BUT PORTUGAL'S RIGHT TO REPRESENT AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE PROPOSED THAT THE COMITE APPROVE CREDENTIALS OF PORTUGAL ON UNDERSTANDING IT REPRESENTS PORTUGAL IN EUROPE AND REJECT CREDENTIALS OF THOSE REPS WHO PURPORTED TO REPRESENT WITHIN THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL PORTUGUESE-DOMINATED TERRITORIES OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE OR THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF GUINEA-BISSAU. FALL SUPPORTED TIS AND ARGUED THAT TO ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL FROM GUINEA-BISSAU IN PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WAS INCONSISTENT WITH GA DECISION ON GUINEA-BISSAU. WANG MADE SAME ARGUMENT.

3. US REP NOTED THAT EVEN IF ONE ARGUED THAT THE AFRICAN REGIONS WERE NOT PART OF PORTUGAL, ALL THAT LED TO WAS THAT A DELEGATION HAD SOME NON-NATIONALS AMONG ITS MEMBERS. US REP POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS COMMON PRACTICE IN UN AND HARDLY GROUNDS FOR OBJECTING TO CREDENTIALS. IF ALTERNATIVELY WHAT WAS BEING DEBATED WAS THE EXTENT OF THE TERRITORY OF PORTUGAL, THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN DEBATING A GREAT MANY TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. US REP CONCLUDED THAT THESE ISSUES NOT GERMANE TO CONCERNS OF CREDENTIALS COMITE AND THEREFORE THERE NO BASIS FOR REJECTING ANY OF THE PORTUGUESE CREDENTIALS. NICARAGUA, URUGUAY AND GREECE SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. PROPOSAL OF TANZANIA REJECTED THREE IN FAVOR (CHINA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA) AND FIVE AGAINST (GREECE, JAPAN, NICARAGUA, US, URUGUAY). OVINNIKOV (USSR), WHO ARRIVED IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTE, SAID HE WOULD HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR.

4. FALL ASKED FOR LEGAL INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THIS DECISION AMOUNTED TO RECONSIDERATION OF GA'S DECISION RE GUINEA-BISSAU. STAVROPOULOS (UN LEGAL COUNSEL) REPLIED THAT IT DID NOT AND THAT THERE WAS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR TANZANIAN PROPOSAL. SENEGAL AND TANZANIA ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD TAKE PORTUGUESE QUESTION AND KHMER QUESTION TO PLENARY.

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5. REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMITE APPROVED BY VOTE OF FIVE IN FAVOR (GREECE, JAPAN, NICARAGUA, US, URUGUAY) AND FOUR AGAINST (CHINA, SENEGAL, TANZANIA, USSR). MATTER WILL COME UP IN PLENARY DEC 13.
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